

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00517 131648Z

13

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01

/079 W

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R 131415Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2271

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL TANGIER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CASABLANCA 517

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MO

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN II CELEBRATES 44TH BIRTHDAY IN CASABLANCA

JULY 10

1. DURING RARE OFFICIAL VISIT TO CASABLANCA (LAST WAS FINAL OF THRONE CUP FOOTBALL MATCH OCTOBER, 1971), KING HASSAN II SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN RALLYING SUPPORT FOR MONARCHY AND PARTIALLY DISPELLING WIDELY-HELD CASABLANCA VIEW THAT RULER LOATHED AND FEARED COMMERCIAL CAPITAL.

2. FOLLOWING CORNERSTONE LAYING OF MOSQUE AT SKHIRAT, MONARCH HOSTED LUNCH AT CASABLANCA ANFA HILL PALACE AND AT 5:30 P.M. HELD RECEPTION AT PREFECTURE FOR OVER 1,000 OFFICIALS, NOTABLES AND BUSINESSMEN.

3. ALTHOUGH CITY BRISTLED WITH UNIFORMED AND PLAINCLOTHES SECURITY FORCES, KING ALLOWED SELF CONSIDERABLE EXPOSURE TO MULTITUDES LINING ROUTE TO PREFECTURE. HE STOOD UP IN OPEN SUN-ROOF MERCEDES AND WALKED PART OF WAY THROUGH WELL-CONTROLLED CROWDS BEFORE DELIVERING SHORT SPEECH FROM BALCONY OF PREFECTURE. SIZE OF CROWDS LARGELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO FACT AFTERNOON JULY 10 DECLARED OFFICIAL HOLIDAY, CASABLANCA.

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4. IN PREFERENCE TO RECEPTION LINE, KING CIRCULATED AMONG GUESTS AT PREFECTURE TO RECEIVE HAND KISSES. TECHNIQUE WAS EFFECTIVE MEANS TO DEMONSTRATE KING'S EASE AND CONFIDENCE AT LEAST IN THIS MILIEU.

5. SECURITY MEASURES VERY TIGHT WITH WIDE AREA OF STREETS SURROUNDING PREFECTURE BLOCKED TO VEHICLES; GENDARMERIE LINING KEY STREETS; AND SIZABLE GUARD FORCE BIVOUACKED NEAR ANFA PALACE. KING'S ARRIVAL CASABLANCA NOT ANNOUNCED UNTIL JULY 10, DAY AFTER ACTUAL ARRIVAL.

6. CASABLANCA OBSERVERS BELIEVE ROYAL VISIT BENEFITED TWO WAYS: GIVING KING GREATER CONFIDENCE IN CASABLANCA SUPPORT; AND PROVIDING CASABLANCANS WITH DEMONSTRATION KING'S COURAGE AND DETERMINATION TO RULE. MANY WERE IMPRESSED WITH APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS WARMTH OF RECEPTION AMONG POPULACE.  
BRUBECK

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## Message Attributes

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